



Iowa Medicaid Newsletter Endeavors Update

A Communications Effort to Strengthen Partnerships June 2013

Terry E. Branstad, Governor
Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor

Iowa Department of Human Services
Charles M. Palmer, Director
Jennifer Vermeer, Medicaid Director

Special points of interest:

- Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Waiver Process Update
- e-Health Summit Wrap-up
- Iowa Care Enrollment Cap Request
- Budget Highlights

Iowa Medicaid Director's Column



Welcome to the June 2013 edition of the IME Newsletter. The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise is entering one of the busiest six months in its history with projects ranging from normal business processes to complex system transformations. We have a new document that provides a [snapshot of initiatives](#) on July 1, 2013. We have a great deal to accomplish at Iowa Medicaid and believe we are up to the challenge. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has said that "Iowa is breaking new ground". We look forward to your support as we move forward on all of our initiatives. I want to wish Roger Munns, long-time DHS spokesperson, best wishes as he enters retirement. (See related story on page 8).

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Update on Iowa Health and Wellness Plan: CMS Says to Repeat the Public Input Process

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has concluded that the Iowa DHS must repeat the entire public notice process (including tribal notice, newspaper publication, public hearings, etc.) due to the scope of the changes made to the waiver between the initial "Healthy Iowa Plan" proposal and the subsequent "Iowa Health and Wellness Plan" passed by the Iowa Legislature on May 23, 2013. CMS made this decision late last week and DHS is now working towards setting additional public hearing dates, amending the waiver application and anticipating a small delay in the submission date of the waiver application past the original anticipated date of June 28, 2013. **These additional steps and delays will not delay the ultimate effective date of January 1, 2014.** Additional materials regarding the waiver application will be posted at:

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/healthy-iowa-plan-summary.html>

"By the end of this year, 85 percent of family physicians in Iowa are expected to be using some form of the records, compared with about 80 percent nationally".

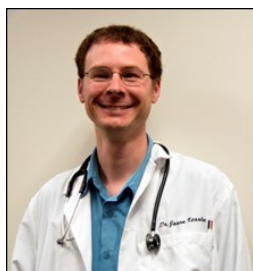
*Dr. Tim Gutschall
Chief Medical Officer
Wellmark Blue Cross
Blue Shield*

Annual e-Health Summit Wrap-up: Largest Attendance Ever

The annual summit brought health care providers and health information technology (HIT) experts together to learn how they can improve care and qualify for financial incentives through participation in an electronic records network. Advocates of health information technology have been analyzing the overwhelming benefits of digital conversion of medical records and how it will help improve efficiencies and quality of care. Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield's Chief Medical Officer stated at the summit "By the end of this year, 85 percent of family physicians in Iowa are expected to be using some form of the records, compared with about 80 percent nationally". HIT Project Director for the IME, Jody Holmes, spoke on "What's Trending Now in Iowa Health IT" while Marni Bussell and Koreen Rayl presented on "HIT: A Payor's Perspective". HIT Provider Incentive Coordinator for the IME, Rachel Lunsford, presented on "Meaningful Use and the Iowa Medicaid HIT Incentive Program" where, among many critical points, she discussed the benefits of participating in the incentive program. The 9th annual e-Health Summit was held in Altoona on June 11 and 12. Co-sponsored by Iowa e-Health, Telligen Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center and the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME), this year's summit was attended by more professionals than any other previous years.



Rachel Lunsford of the IME gives a presentation on meaningful use and the Iowa Medicaid HIT Incentive program.



Medical Director's Minute

Dr. Kessler writes a monthly column on topics of interest. The topic of June 2013 is Medicaid Provider Screening and Enrollment Changes. Link to the June 2013 Medical Minute:

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Newsletters.html>



Mary O'Brien

Visiting Nurses Association

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Public Hearings Held Across the State

Four public hearings were held across the state on June 3 & 4 to get public input on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Waiver application. Over 100 people attended hearings in Des Moines, Sioux City, Davenport, and Cedar Rapids. In this photo, Mary O'Brien, Visiting Nurses Association, gives a comment at the Des Moines public hearing on June 3, 2013. DHS thanks the people who attended and submitted comments.

Annual provider training participation is on it's way to exceeding last year's total attendees.

Update on IME Annual Provider Training: 795 Participants by June 7

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) began the 2013 Annual Provider Training sessions in May. The two-day sessions started on May 13th in Ottumwa and will conclude in Des Moines on August 8th. To date 795 providers have already attended the first five venues and are on the way to exceed last year's total of attendees. The training sessions are being offered in 16 different communities across the state, based on increasing provider participation and interest in the sessions over the years, the presentations are designed to give participating IME providers relevant and up-to-date information on Medicaid programs and services. Providers are encouraged to register for the upcoming training sessions at:

www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/ATRegistration.html.

State Innovation Model (SIM) Learning Session

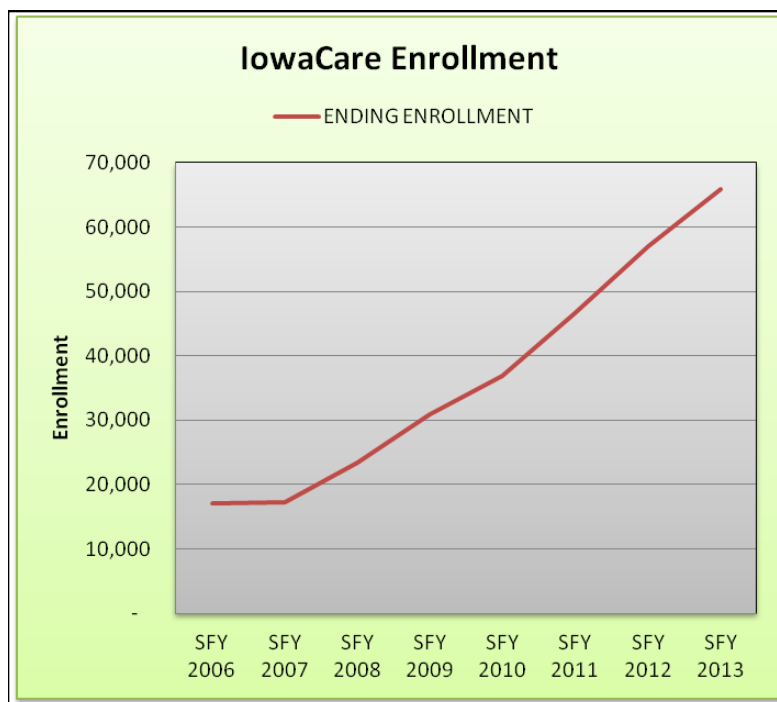
On June 17, the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise held the second in a series of "Learning Sessions" about the Medicaid State Innovation Model (SIM), the project to develop new payment and service delivery models. The topic of the session was Medicaid Long Term Care. Around sixty people were in attendance. The list of workgroup members and tentative calendar of meetings will be posted on the SIM webpage at:

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/state-innovation-models.html>

IowaCare Enrollment Cap Request Approved: Part of the Transition to Iowa Health and Wellness Plan

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved a cap to enrollment in the IowaCare program in response to requests from providers about concerns about capacity to meet future enrollment growth and to assist with the phasing out of IowaCare (sunsets on December 31, 2013). The new health care coverage structure (currently called the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan) is targeted to begin on January 1, 2014. The cap will take effect on July 1, 2013. Public notice of this intent to cap the enrollment was provided on September 2012 and the waiver amendment request was submitted to CMS in October 2012. The request to CMS establishes a system to accept applications through June 30 and cap the number based on enrolled members once those applications are processed and eligibility determinations are made. The enrollment cap is intended to help the program operate within state appropriations and help the transition of members into the new health care structure being developed. The SFY13-SFY14 state appropriation is based on instituting a cap. Regrettably, the challenge with this cap is that there are likely to be individuals who had not applied for IowaCare previously who would be eligible but, due to the cap, will not be covered for services between July 1-December 31, 2013.

The IowaCare program has experienced steady growth in enrollment since the implementation of the statewide expansion of the provider network on January 1, 2012. The chart below shows enrollment growth including projected SFY 13 figures.



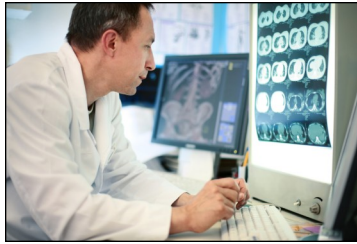
DHS Set to Launch New Website

In July, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) will launch a new website that integrates all DHS subsites into one seamless, efficient web portal. It will be easier for external stakeholders to use and access information and easier for internal stakeholders to update and maintain. The new site will have a clean design and modern look. Navigation around the site will also be easier and content search will be more intuitive. The new website utilizes the Drupal web content management system which is an open-source system used by some of the most prominent US federal and state agencies. Among the many features of the website's new content management system, the new DHS website will display a "news ticker" on the homepage that will highlight major DHS initiatives and news and events from other DHS subsites. Quick links to highly relevant areas of the website such as "how to apply for various services" will be featured throughout the website. It will also feature a corporate calendar and enhanced DHS office maps. The Medicaid web pages will still be organized in three main sections "About the IME", "Provider Services" and "Member Services". People who have bookmarked pages on the old site will be redirected to the content's location in the new website. Please update your bookmarks accordingly. We hope you enjoy the new product.



Medicaid to Issue Physician Rate Increase Payments

On November 1, 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule to implement a provision of the Affordable Care Act that provides increased payments to certain primary care physicians for specified Medicaid primary care services. Under this provision, certain physicians who provide eligible primary care services will be paid the Medicare rates in effect in calendar years (CY) 2013 and 2014 instead of their usual state-established Medicaid rates. Since the release of the final rules, the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) and the Department of Human Services' Division of Fiscal Management have worked steadily to implement this ACA provision. On May 1, 2013, CMS approved the State Plan Amendment (SPA) providing the authority to pay eligible providers the increased payment. After finalizing the necessary internal processes, the IME will begin paying eligible providers the enhanced payment effective June 24, 2013. Additionally, providers who attested on or before April 1, 2013, will receive retroactive payments from January 1, 2013. Other eligible providers will receive retroactive payments based on their attestation date. Providers will receive their total retroactive payments in a series of eight payments by the IME.



Providers who have yet to attest should go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/264250> and complete the single page e-form. The form is simple and if needed, guidance and clarification of the form is displayed when you click on most fields of the form. Please refer to [Informational Letter 1194](#) and [Informational Letter 1251](#) for full details.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us



Medicaid Budget Highlights: Post 2013 Legislative Session

The Legislature passed the Health and Human Services (HHS) budget bill on the final day of the 2013 legislative session. Some of the significant Medicaid budget provisions included within this bill are summarized below.

SFY13 Supplemental Appropriation

- \$61 million supplemental appropriation that will fully-fund both the Medicaid and IowaCare appropriations in SFY13.

SFY14 Provider Rates Increases

The following provider rates increases are authorized in SFY14:

- Emergency Medical Services Providers – 10 percent increase.
- Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers- 3 percent increase to the upper payment limits.
- Home Health Providers – Transition to the Medicare low utilization payment amount (LUPA) methodology, which is expected to increase rates for the impacted providers by nearly 10 percent.
- Nursing Facilities – Rates will be adjusted up to a specified budget cap. This will result in a nursing facility rate increase of approximately 6 percent.
- All Other Fee Schedule Providers – 1 percent increase.

SFY14 HCBS Waiver Waiting List Reductions

- \$8,715,473 is provided to reduce the waiting lists for all HCBS Waivers.

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan: Positive Impact on Counties

- Effective January 1, 2014, the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan will provide health insurance coverage for individuals age 19-64 with incomes at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. The cost for those individuals covered by this program will be funded entirely by the federal government until calendar year 2017. Once implemented, many individuals that currently receive county-funded medical services will instead be covered by the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. This coverage shift is expected to reduce county spending obligations, and the legislation provides a mechanism to calculate and recover these anticipated savings. In general, a county will be required to repay the state 80 percent of its annual savings from state funds that would have otherwise been distributed to the county. If a county's repayment obligation exceeds this distribution, the county's services fund levy will be reduced by the amount of the excess.



DHS Spokesman Roger Munns to Retire: Plans to “Stay Busy Doing Something Useful”

Iowans know Roger Munns as the voice of DHS. They see him on the news and read quotes in the papers when DHS or the individuals we serve are in the spotlight. Here at DHS we know Roger as a calm, considerate, foundational member of the Cabinet who also practices service to others in his personal life. Roger is retiring after working at DHS for the last eleven years. Before he came to DHS he worked briefly at the Department of Cultural Affairs and spent over 20 years as a practicing journalist, first for the Quad City Times then the Cedar Rapids Gazette and finally with the Associated Press. His strong journalism background is likely the reason that Roger says, contrary to what some people might think, he “likes reporters” and “appreciates what they do”.

Roger describes himself as “the front door” for public who want to know more about the agency and its efforts. He responds to media inquiries and says that open records requests are taking an ever increasing portion of his duties. In addition, Roger has played a key role in the multi-year project to create communications standards and to launch a new website.

A challenging part of Roger’s work at DHS is dealing with child abuse cases when we can’t tell the public everything we know confidentially in order to protect the children involved. During these times Roger maintains a clear sense of objectivity and sensitivity. Roger makes it very clear that child welfare workers “have his huge admiration”. He says they “feel deeply about kids” and points to advances in the area of child protection that DHS is having “every greater success” including tools to better evaluate safety and risk and more engagement with families. He believes that DHS has made “leaps and bounds” in this critical area. Roger believes that government has a role to play in the lives of vulnerable Iowans. He feels that DHS has made a “very positive difference for thousands of families”.

Many of you may not know that Roger gives back to the community in his life outside of the office. He has taught English as a second language for adults for about ten years. He volunteers at a free health clinic and he manages a community garden. Over thirty years ago when Governor Bob Ray asked Iowans to help settle refugees from Southeast Asia, Roger and his future wife answered the call to help. Roger recalls being at the Des Moines Airport on the day after Christmas to welcome a family of seven from Laos and help them settle in this new land by assisting with housing and school, among other needs. Roger keeps in touch with them today.

When asked to describe what retirement will look like for him. Roger said his mission “is to stay busy doing something useful”. He plans to volunteer, garden, bike and run. He will also visit his children who live across the country from New Orleans to Chicago to Miami.

“Throughout the years, Roger has been a passionate champion for Iowans in need. He has done an excellent job representing our responsibilities and challenges to the public. He represents the compassion, dedication and competency of our staff with enormous skill. I have the greatest respect for his skills and wish him the best in his retirement.”

Charles M Palmer

Director DHS

DHS wishes Roger the very best in retirement and we thank him for his service.

Regular Feature: Informational Letters

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise publishes provider bulletins, also known as informational letters, to clarify existing policy details or explain new policy. Bulletins are posted on a website. The “*Endeavors Update*” will highlight informational letters released in the preceding month. Topics of May 2013 informational letters included:

- Elective C-Section Coverage and Payment (IL#1249)
- Limited Initial Institutional Stay (IL#1247)
- Electronic Dental X-Rays (IL#1246)
- Prior Authorization Required for Swing Bed Admission and Continued Stay (IL#1245)
- Iowa Medicaid Pharmacy Program Changes (IL#1244)
- Dental Policy Changes-Updated Information (IL#1243)
- Reminder Regarding Prior Authorization ((PA) Requirements (IL#1242)
- Involuntarily Dissolved Providers (IL#1241)

View the complete list of informational letters by year at:

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Bulletins.html>

Newsletter Editor Leaving IME

Julie Fleming has been the writer, editor, publisher and sometimes photographer for the IME Newsletter, *Endeavors Update*, since its inception in the fall of 2010. Fleming plays other communications roles at the IME including contributions to budget documents and legislative testimony in addition to DHS website development. She is leaving the IME at the end of June to take some time off and then pursue other opportunities. Fleming says she is most proud of “creating sustainable, dependable communications platforms to serve our internal and external stakeholders.” She has enjoyed working with many brilliant people at the IME. Julie wants to thank the loyal readers and new subscribers for their continued interest in what’s going on at the IME.



“Julie has had an indelible impact on IME. She has made dramatic improvements in our communication efforts and her impact will be felt long after she leaves. We thank her for all of her contributions and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.”

*Jennifer Vermeer
Medicaid Director*



Iowa Medicaid programs serve Iowa's most vulnerable population, including children, the disabled and the elderly.

We're on the web!

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/>

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The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) is an endeavor, started in 2005, to unite State staff with "best of breed" contractors into a performance-based model for administration of the Medicaid program.

The Medicaid program is funded by State and Federal governments with a total budget of approximately \$4 billion. The \$4 billion funds payments for medical claims to over 38,000 health care providers statewide.

Iowa Medicaid is the second largest health care payer in Iowa. The program is expected to serve over 698,000 Iowans, or 23%, of the population in State Fiscal Year 2013.

Iowa Medicaid Upcoming Events:

July 19	Clinical Advisory Committee http://www.ime.state.ia.us/MAAC/CAC_Index.html
August 7	Drug Utilization and Review http://www.iadur.org/meetings
August 19	hawk-i Board http://hawk-i.org/en_US/board.html
August 22	Pharmaceutical & Therapeutics Committee https://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/pt_committee_info

Coming this summer:

State Innovation Model (SIM) and Balancing Incentives Program (BIP) Stakeholder events.

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/state-innovation-models.html>

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/BIPP.html>

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